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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TREASURER, SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF BEDFORD,

FOR THE YEAR 1875-6.

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MANCHESTER, N. H.:  
PRINTED BY CAMPBELL & HANSOM.  
1876.



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## TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

*To the Selectmen of the Town of Bedford:*

The following is a statement of the financial condition of the Town, for the year ending March 1, 1876, as appears upon the books of the Treasurer:

### RECEIPTS.

Assets from the Treasury, 1875, . . . . .	\$11,589 10
Received, Assessments, 1875, . . . . .	6,678 70
Savings Bank tax, . . . . .	1,648 93
Railroad tax, . . . . .	118 89
Literary Fund, . . . . .	102 34
Insurance, . . . . .	7 50
Silas A. Riddle, graveyard lots, . . . . .	96 00
Clinton French, received of county, . . . . .	44 00
Interest on bonds, . . . . .	504 00
Quincy Barnard, interest on taxes, 1873, . . . . .	90 00
John Hodgman, interest on taxes, 1874, . . . . .	28 05
	— \$20,907 51

Paid out as follows:

Orders, . . . . .	\$4,833 30
County Tax, . . . . .	826 09
State Tax, . . . . .	1,604 00
Schools, in part, . . . . .	1,415 07
State Bonds, . . . . .	8,400 00
Due from Collector, . . . . .	2,378 70
Cash on hand, . . . . .	1,440 35
	—————\$20,907 51

All of which is respectfully submitted,

O. L. KENDALL,

*Treasurer.*

BEDFORD, March 1st, 1876.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Samuel E. Morrison, services as Selectman,	\$90 00
John S. McNeill, services as Selectman	79 00
Clinton French, services as Selectman,	61 62
John Hodgman, services as Treasurer,	50 00
Silas A. Riddle, services as Town Clerk,	60 00
I. C. Tyson, services as Sup. School Com.	30 00
John Hodgman, services as Collector in 1874,	115 00
John Hodgman, rectifying Treasurer's ac- count, 1873.	5 00
John Hodgman, non-resident highway tax worked out,	9 66
T. W. Richards, sheep killed by dogs,	10 00
Wm. H. Fisk, check list and printing town reports,	34 68
D. R. Barnard, wood for town house,	5 50
Moses Gage, abatement in E. C. Hardy's tax for 1842,	8 05

John Hodgman, abatement in H. H. Cur-		
rier's tax for 1874, . . . . .	\$8	73
Ellett S. Campbell, damage to sleigh, . . .	8	00
George W. Goffe, services as Moderator, . .	5	00
T. H. Tuson, printing auction bills, . . .	1	50
H. R. Barnard, repairs on town hall, . . .	16	23
Clinton French, cash for printing and sta-		
tionery, . . . . .	3	00
Williams D. Mitchell, over tax in 1875, . .	53	
David Sprague, abatement of pole tax, '75,	1	30
Samuel R. Perkins, over tax, 1875, . . .	19	24
Thomas S. Burns, school house tax in Dis-		
trict No. 2, . . . . .	15	00
Frederick F. French, services as Assessor,	31	50
Solomon Manning, services as Assessor, . .	34	50
Alford Jones, sheep killed by dogs, . . .	10	00
E. G. Tolford, stationery, . . . . .	1	35
George Foster, use of watering trough, '75,	3	00
Thomas J. Wiggin, guide-boards, . . . .	2	25
Wm. Walker, use of watering trough, '75,	3	00
E. G. Tolford, stationery and aid to trans-		
ient person . . . . .	2	40
Eliza G. B. Woodbury, abatement on dog		
tax and cow, . . . . .	1	45
Joseph H. Stevens, surveying Flint road,	2	00
John Hodgman, discount on tax list of '74,	122	58
John Hodgman, abatement on his list of		
1874, . . . . .	19	16
John Hodgman, over tax in 1875, . . .	1	30
John Hodgman, abatement of Benj. Mel-		
vin's tax in 1875, . . . . .	8	12
John Hodgman, abatement of Harriet		
Adams' tax in 1875, . . . . .	97	
Mrs. Mariah Snow, sheep killed by dog, . .	10	00
Wm. Moore, services as Constable, 1874-5,	5	00
		\$894 62

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

B. W. Nichols, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	\$9 40
James E. Gault, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	6 50
Willard C. Parker, breaking roads in 1874, . . . . .	3 00
E. G. Tolford, breaking roads in 1874-5, . . . . .	17 35
Clinton French, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	13 70
William Moore, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	4 00
David R. Barnard, breaking roads in '74-5, . . . . .	10 90
Thomas W. Richards breaking roads in '73 . . . . .	3 00
T. G. Holbrook, breaking roads in 1873-4, . . . . .	5 50
Geo. W. Goffe, breaking roads in 1874 5, . . . . .	6 00
James Fullerton, breaking roads in 1874-5, . . . . .	19 10
David Sprague, breaking roads in 1874 5, . . . . .	7 00
S. A. Shepard, breaking roads in 1874 5, . . . . .	25 90
Stephen Goffe, breaking roads in 1874 5, . . . . .	13 00
C. H. Kendall, building culvert on ministerial road, . . . . .	20 00
Joseph H. Tinker, breaking road, and non-resident tax worked out, . . . . .	16 27
Ephraim Kendall, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	9 50
Jesse Witherspoon, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	4 00
John Kinson, labor on highway, 1875, . . . . .	3 00
Albert L. Flint, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	15 60
Sanford Roby, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	25 25
Alford Jones, labor on highway, 1875, . . . . .	16 00
M. W. Spencer, breaking roads in 1875, . . . . .	24 30
Warren G. Currier, labor on highway, 1875 . . . . .	3 00
E. G. Tolford, labor on highway, 1875, . . . . .	3 60
S. H. Patten, labor on highway, 1873-4-5, . . . . .	24 70
I. P. Hodgman, labor on and breaking roads, 1874, . . . . .	20 00
William D. Mitchell, labor on and breaking roads, . . . . .	9 00

Timothy Townsend, labor on and breaking roads, . . . . .	\$17 75
A. L. Hadley, labor on and breaking roads, . . . . .	19 00
Samuel W. Dunbar, labor on and breaking roads, 1874 . . . . .	1 50
F. F. French, building culvert near F. Hodgman's, . . . . .	41 25
Farnum Jenkins, breaking roads 1874 5, . . . . .	15 25
Geo. F. Shepard, breaking roads, 1874-5, . . . . .	9 25
S. C. Damon, plank for bridge in Dist. No. 2, . . . . .	23 61
Wm. A. Flint, breaking roads, 1874, . . . . .	6 80
Joseph G. Holbrook, breaking roads, 1875, . . . . .	16 41
Adam Campbell, breaking roads, . . . . .	5 80
David B. Durgin, repairing culvert, . . . . .	2 00
Jacob N. Rundlett, labor on highway, . . . . .	2 00
Wm. A. Tarr, labor on highways, . . . . .	7 60
Stephen Goffe, labor on highways and breaking roads, . . . . .	12 00
Simon Jenness, labor on roads, 1874-5, . . . . .	1 90
F. E. Scheer, labor on Boynton bridge and hill, . . . . .	9 00
Simon Jenness, building culvert in District No. 9, . . . . .	20 00
Thomas M. Ferguson, breaking roads, 1875, . . . . .	1 00
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	\$544 69

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### REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS IN 1875.

Dist. No. 1, H. T. Barnard, . . . . .	\$420 45
No. 2, William Moor, . . . . .	263 05
No. 3, Orin P. Frachuer, . . . . .	193 90
No. 4, William A. Rundlet, . . . . .	264 45
No. 5, Isaac P. Hodgman, . . . . .	154 00

No. 6, Henry J. Plummer, . . . . .	\$148 25
No. 7, Justin E. Vose, . . . . .	419 50
No. 8, Elbridge G. Tolford, . . . . .	283 85
No. 9, Solomon Manning, . . . . .	116 25
No. 10, Sanford Roby, . . . . .	135 25
No. 11, Milton N. Flint, . . . . .	57 85
	————— \$2,456 80

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### NEW ROADS.

F. R. French, land damage on C. H. Moore road, . . . . .	\$150 00
Timothy Townsend, land damage on Flint road, . . . . .	10 00
M. V. B. Kinne, land damage on Curtis road, . . . . .	62 50
Albert L. Flint, building Flint road, . . . . .	312 00
Elbridge G. Tolford, labor on Mountain road, . . . . .	*79 30
C. H. Moore, building Moore road, . . . . .	296 00
C. H. Moore, balance of cost on Moore road, . . . . .	21 73
Elbridge G. Tolford, cash C. E. Bursiel land damage on Flint road, . . . . .	110 00
	————— \$1,041 53

There is now in the Treasurer's hands two hundred and twenty-five dollars to pay Stillman Parkhurst, land damage on Flint road, which he refused to accept, . . . . . \$225 00

## SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

James French, support of Betsy and Abby			
Bursiel, . . . . .	\$156 00		
Wm. Coda, support of Mrs. Butler, . . .	10 00		
Frank S. Dearborn, aid to Mrs. Brown, . .	5 00		
Clinton French, advanced in aid to Mrs. G.			
H. Witherspoon, . . . . .	20 49		
	—————		
			\$191 49
Received of County for support of Betsy			
and Abby Bursiel and Mrs. Brown, . . .	\$44 00		
Due from County to March 1st, 1876, . . .	37 50		
	—————		
			\$81 50
Leaving expended by town, . . . . .			
	—————		
			\$109 99

## MONEY ASSESSMENT.

Amount of money assessed upon the polls and ratable estates of residents and non-residents in the town of Bedford, for the year 1875 :

State tax, . . . . .	\$1,604 00	
County tax, . . . . .	826 09	
Highway tax, . . . . .	2,000 00	
New roads tax, . . . . .	500 00	
School tax, . . . . .	1,403 50	
Town tax, . . . . .	1 00	
School house tax, . . . . .	15 00	
Dog tax, . . . . .	117 00	
Percentage, . . . . .	212 11	
	—————	
		\$6,678 70

## PROPORTION OF SCHOOL MONEY.

District No. 1, . . . . .	\$269 12
No. 2, . . . . .	160 00
No. 3, . . . . .	111 31
No. 4, . . . . .	213 64
No. 5, . . . . .	95 63
No. 6, . . . . .	138 98
No. 7, . . . . .	141 56
No. 8, . . . . .	138 98
No. 9, . . . . .	108 11
No. 10, . . . . .	38 06
No. 11, . . . . .	65 82
	————— \$1,481 21

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDERS DRAWN SINCE  
MARCH 1st, 1875:

Incidental expenses, . . . . .	\$895 62
Highways and bridges, . . . . .	544 69
Repairs of highways, 1875, . . . . .	2,456 80
New roads, . . . . .	1,041 53
Support of poor, . . . . .	191 49
	————— \$5,130 13

## MONEY PAID WITHOUT ORDERS:

School money of 1875, . . . . .	\$1,451 07
State tax, . . . . .	1,604 00
County tax, . . . . .	826 09
	————— \$3,881 16
	————— \$9,011 29

The whole amount of assets from Treasurer's report,	\$20,907 51
Deduct money paid out to March 1st, 1876,	9,011 29
	<hr/>
	\$11,896 22
Deduct money due Stillman Parkhurst,	\$225 00
Deduct estimated amount due town officers and outstanding bills,	500 00
	<hr/>
	725 00
<hr/>	<hr/>
Leaving a balance of	\$11,171 22
To which add amount received of County	
for support of poor,	\$44 00
Due from County,	37 50
	<hr/>
	\$81 50
<hr/>	<hr/>
Leaving a balance in favor of the town of	\$11,252 72
All of which is respectfully submitted,	

CLINTON FRENCH,  
ELBRIDGE G. TOLFORD,  
WARREN G. CURRIER,

*Selectmen of Bedford.*



## SCHOOL REPORT.

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### DISTRICT NO. 1.

SAMUEL SEAVEY, Prudential Committee.      Amount of money, \$269.12.

Summer term, Miss Mary F. Cutler, teacher.    Wages per month, \$32; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, thirty; average attendance, twenty-five.

Miss Cutler is a lady of superior literary attainments, and as well adapted to her profession as most teachers. It would seem that her peculiar faculty of mingling kindness with discipline would have won the affection of *all* the pupils, and at the same time commanded their respect and obedience. But some of the large boys seemed to take advantage of their teacher's very amiable disposition, and sought to annoy her, thereby disturbing the school and greatly injuring themselves. To lead scholars to *think* appeared to be the aim of the teacher, and the practical tendency of the instruction deserves commendation. The rare faculty possessed by this teacher of imparting instruction to her pupils, was fully exemplified in the school, and the result could not be otherwise than favorable. The only pupil who did not whisper during the term was Mabel S. Baxter. Other pupils, whose deportment was always correct, were Mary J. Moore, Emma J. McDole, and Willie G. McDole.

Fall Term, Miss Lizzie M. McAfee, teacher.    Wages per month, \$28.00; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, thirty-eight; average attendance, thirty-one.

We are well aware of the embarrassments the young teacher must feel when set to perform a task which requires all the ripe

experience and wisdom of maturer years. Miss McAfee is a young teacher of much promise, an excellent scholar, and is destined to be one of our best teachers. In this district she had much with which to contend. Truancy and a spirit of insubordination on the part of several scholars, were among her vexatious embarrassments. Of course, under these circumstances, that hearty co-operation and good will the teacher has a right to expect from scholars, were, to some extent, wanting. There are very few teachers who can successfully improve the mind of the pupil without being sustained by the citizens. Not one teacher in a hundred can manage the school and the whole district beside. The committee was called into this school to quell difficulties that had arisen between teacher and scholars, and threatened to destroy the peace and usefulness of the school. This evil of open resistance to the reasonable orders of the teacher, if not severely checked, will become a deadly scourge, preying upon the very vitals of our district schools. Teachers may make mistakes, who does not? They may not do as well as they might—how few there are who do. Let us be charitable in forming, and guarded in the expressions of our opinions. It is to be feared that school teachers have sometimes only too much reason to say of those for whose advantage they have been faithfully toiling, "they hate me without a cause." We should be sure that we extend to them in thought, word, and deed, the treatment which, were we placed in their position, we could reasonably desire in return. Taking all things into consideration, I think Miss McAfee has done well. The scholars seemed interested, and it is the testimony of those who kept their children at school that they "never learned better." We regret to have to report four or five large scholars leaving school because unwilling to obey orders.

Winter Term, Miss Della E. Haines, teacher. Wages per month, \$35.00; length of school, ten and four-fifths weeks; number of pupils, thirty-four; average attendance, twenty-nine.

Miss Haines is eminently a practical and thorough teacher,

one of the enterprising ones, full of spirit and ambition, perfectly able and willing to second the scholars in all their efforts. The qualifications of this teacher, combined with the zeal and energy with which she labored, were certain precursors of success. Efficient progress was made. The various expedients resorted to by the teacher, to lead scholars to think for themselves, cannot be too highly commended. Scholars not absent one-half day, Fred Webber, Fred French, Georgia Seavey, Allie Stevens and Abbie Stevens.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

THOMAS BURNS, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$100.00.

Summer Term, Miss Sallie D. French, teacher. Wages per month, \$28 00; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, twenty-one; average attendance, sixteen.

Winter Term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$32 00; length of school, nine and one-half weeks; number of pupils, twenty; average attendance, fifteen.

Miss French endeavored to discharge faithfully her duties as a teacher, and was successful. Her school appeared well, and made handsome progress in every department. The good order of the school gave evidence that it had been trained in the line of duty with skill, tact, and success. Here, also, we have to report three or four of the large boys leaving school because they couldn't succeed in governing their teacher.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

M. FOGG, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$111.31.

Summer Term, Miss Laura Center, teacher. Wages per month, \$18 00; length of school, nine weeks; number of pupils, twenty one; average attendance, nineteen.

Winter Term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$18 00; length of school, fourteen weeks; number of scholars, nineteen; average attendance, fifteen.

Good order and a fair degree of interest were observed, and both terms were generally satisfactory.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

E. C. STEVENS, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$213.64.

Summer Term, Miss Frankie T. Rundlett teacher. Wages per month, \$30 00; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, fourteen; average attendance, ten.

Fall term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$20 00; length of school, five weeks; number of pupils, fourteen; average attendance, ten.

Winter Term, Miss Sarah M. Foster teacher. Wages per month, \$32 00; length of school,  $11\frac{1}{16}$  weeks; number of pupils, fourteen; average attendance, eleven.

Miss Foster has been employed in this school for twelve terms, and has always borne the highest testimonials of character and scholarship, and of her success as a teacher. She was employed with unhesitating confidence in her qualifications for the situation in every respect. I am glad to say she has fully met all our expectations, and we know that she has faithfully labored to do all that lay in the power of a teacher to advance the welfare of the school. The discipline has been restraining and elevating; the instruction thorough and efficient, and nothing has been wanting on her part, in effort and accomplishment to entitle her to universal commendation. It is gratifying to know she has been so nobly sustained by a very large majority of the citizens of the district. They know they never have had a better school. They know their teacher has done all a faithful teacher *could* do this term, that she has even surpassed herself in her efforts for their good. She says in her remarks; "Of the twelve terms that I have been connected with this school as teacher, not one has passed more pleasantly than the present. Striving, as I ever have done, to fulfill to the utmost of my ability the responsibilities of my position, I have labored *earnestly* and *faithfully* to do my duty. Whether I have *succeeded* or *failed*, I think the standing of my school at its close will testify." Yes, the standing of the school *did* testify to

her success—the school spoke for itself—and that large company of the parents and friends that witnessed the closing examination, also testified to her success. For these kind tokens of approval they have our thanks. Miss Foster was proud of her school, and well she might be. It is the banner school in reading. It is a small school, but if any wish to hear excellent reading—I had almost said *perfect* reading—let them visit the school No. 4. The advancement made in other branches, especially grammar, was very excellent. The following facts, learned at the closing examination, may be interesting to all who take an interest in good schools, and should induce others to follow their example: “The following scholars did not whisper during the term—Charles Taffe, Herman Windrich, Fred B. Dunbar, Bertha E. Dunbar, Eliza D. Rollins, Clara A. Stevens, Mary L. Foster, and Mary J. French. The following were neither tardy, absent nor dismissed during the term—Eliza Rollins and Mary Foster. Absent but one day, Herman Windrich. Absent but one and one-half days, Dana R. Brown. Of three girls who have spelled one thousand two hundred and sixty-six words, Katie I. Wiggin has not missed *one*, Mary L. Foster *but one*, and Bertha E. Dunbar *but three*. Of the little ones who made unusual advancement are Dana Brown, Fred Dunbar, Dennis Reagan; Henry Forde, and Laura Robbe.” And here I wish particularly to mention Charles Taffe, who has never attended other than the district school, but who is one of our best scholars. He is not only a thorough grammarian and arithmetician, but a model scholar in every respect. By his gentlemanly deportment he not only was highly esteemed by his teacher, but greatly respected by all who knew him.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

There was a report that somebody was at work in this school on her own hook, but as no teacher ever presented herself to be legally qualified for the school, (in the words of the late Dr. Stevens,) “it would be compromising the dignity of the Superintending Committee to run after her.”

## DISTRICT NO. 6.

J. N. RUNDLETT, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$138.98.

Summer term, Miss Della J. Baker, teacher. Wages per month, \$18; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, fifteen; average attendance, fourteen  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Winter Term by the same teacher. Wages per month, \$18.00; length of school, sixteen weeks; number of pupils, twenty-three; average attendance, eighteen.

The success of Miss Baker in this school is a sure guarantee that, although young and inexperienced, she is well fitted, not only by acquirements, but by nature, to fill the responsible place of teacher. The tact and enthusiasm in the general management of the school, during both terms, are worthy of praise. Good discipline was maintained, and the best results were attained. By her untiring and laborious efforts in behalf of the pupils, she richly earned the sympathy and support of the parents.

## DISTRICT NO. 7.

JESSE WITHERSPOON, Prudential Committee. Amount of money \$141.56.

Summer Term, Miss Emma J. Witherspoon, teacher. Wages per month, \$20.00; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, twenty-two; average attendance, eighteen.

Miss Witherspoon is an experienced teacher, and her abilities had before been tried in this district. The school appeared to be well conducted, and was undoubtedly successful.

Winter Term, Miss A. Minnie Campbell, teacher. Wages per month, \$28.00; length of school, ten weeks; number of pupils, twenty-two; average attendance, eighteen.

This is now a splendid school. The material is here to make it the best school in town, if the citizens would only wake up to their own interests. It is rapidly advancing to a position among the best. The closing examination of this term was ex-

ceedingly interesting. The lively interest manifested by the scholars was very commendable. The recitations and readings by the young ladies were beautifully performed, and everything passed off to the credit of all concerned.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

HENRY TARR, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$138.98.

Summer Term, Miss M. E. Walker, teacher. Wages per month, \$18.00; length of school, eleven weeks; number of scholars, seventeen; average attendance, fifteen.

The thorough knowledge of principles possessed by this teacher, united with an aptness for teaching, contributed to a favorable result. The district was fortunate in securing the services of this teacher. Miss Walker has had charge of this school, I believe, for several terms, and the benefit of her thorough instruction is very apparent. It was through her instrumentality that those beautiful maps now adorn the walls of this school-room. She has our thanks.

Winter Term, Miss E. J. Hoag, teacher. After continuing five weeks, this teacher suddenly disappeared. No returns from the school. The school is now having fine success under an experienced teacher, Miss Flora L. Haines, of Manchester.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.

SOLomon MANNING, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$108.11.

Summer Term, Miss Nellie B. Chamberlain, teacher. Wages per month, \$16.00; length of school, eight weeks; number of pupils, fifteen; average attendance, fourteen.

Fall Term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$16.00; length of school, eight weeks; number of pupils, sixteen; average attendance, thirteen.

Winter Term, Miss Fannie A. Darrah, teacher. Wages per month, \$28.00; length of school, nine weeks; number of pupils, twenty; average attendance, eighteen.

The labors of both of these teachers were attended with com-

plete success. Both young, but experienced teachers, they are an honor, both to the town and their profession. This is a fine school. The orderly and scholarlike behavior, the industrious habits and correct recitations of the scholars, place this school in the front rank. We have in this school a fine illustration of what perseverance, industry and ambition will accomplish. Miss Mary E. Manning, aged fifteen years, has never attended school out of the district, has always lived at home, and, we presume, worked hard, yet she seems to be complete master of grammar, arithmetic, geography, algebra, physiology and philosophy. In point of scholarship, she is competent to teach any of our district schools. Such instances are rare and worthy of notice. One pleasing incident of the fall examination was the presentation, to the writer, of a splendid *bouquet* by a beautiful little girl—Hattie F. Manning. She had our heartfelt thanks, and the kind act will ever be gratefully remembered by her friend.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10.

SANFORD ROBY, Prudential Committee.	Amount of money, \$38.06.
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Summer Term, Miss Minnie C. Wilkins, teacher. Wages per month, \$26.00; length of school, six weeks; number of pupils, six; average attendance,  $5\frac{5}{6}$ .

Winter Term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$26.00; length of school, seven weeks; number of pupils, eight; average attendance,  $7\frac{3}{5}$ .

Although this is one of our smallest schools, still it ranks high in point of scholarship. The Prudential Committee was very fortunate in securing a teacher of the experience and influence of Miss Wilkins. Instruction in the school was thorough, good order was always maintained, and the progress in the various studies was satisfactory.

It seemed almost a pity that the career of such a teacher should be so suddenly brought to a close. It should be a warning to others to be also ready, for they know not neither the day nor the hour they may have a call.

## DISTRICT NO. 11.

BENJ. W. NICHOLS, Prudential Committee. Amount of money, \$65.82.

Summer Term, Miss Sarah B. Spencer, teacher. Wages per month, \$20.00; length of school, eight weeks; number of pupils, ten; average attendance, eight.

Winter Term, same teacher. Wages per month, \$20.00; length of school, eight weeks; number of pupils, seven; average attendance, six.

This school, though the smallest, under the management of Miss Spencer is one of the best appearing in town. Although young and inexperienced, her labors were attended with success, and she displayed more than average ability as a teacher. Earnestness and energy characterized the teacher, and with these attributes, as might be expected, excellent progress was made, while the thoroughness evinced by the scholars reflected credit upon themselves and their teacher. It is only in this school that vocal music is introduced as an exercise. Music is an important element in education. Its effect are most happy—its influence upon the character most beneficial. It would aid materially in the happy government of the school, furnish a pleasant recreation, is eminently healthful, and in every respect useful. When a teacher possesses the faculty of giving a little instruction in music, at intervals of study, by short exercises on the blackboard, we are persuaded that it would be time and effort well employed. Miss Spencer is as well qualified to give instruction in this beautiful exercise as in the common branches, and when we find a teacher who can teach *both*, my advice is to “*go for her.*”

In conclusion I would remark that it is by law made the duty of every teacher to see that the School Register, and the report which she is required by law to make, is duly returned at the close of the school to the Superintending Committee, and she is entitled to no pay for her services till this requisition is com-

plied with. Moreover, any Prudential Committee who pays the wages of a teacher who has neglected to make her report, is liable to be compelled to refund the amount so paid, to the district. Thus it will be seen that both teacher and Prudential Committee, have an equal interest in taking care that this provision of the statute is complied with. And in addition to this, the whole town is directly interested in this matter, and feels the consequences of the negligence, in this particular, of even a single teacher. It is provided by law that the State Treasurer shall assign and distribute the literary fund in the month of June, annually, among the several towns and places in the State, according to the number of scholars not less than five years of age, who shall, by the report of the Superintending Committees of the several towns and places returned to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year preceding, appear to have attended the district schools in such towns and places not less than two weeks within that year. Of course the Superintending Committee must rely upon the school registers in making out his report in this particular, and if they are not returned, he cannot report to the State.

No report has been received from one or two districts, and the necessary consequence is, that we this year shall receive less than our due proportion of the literary fund. It would seem just that the consequences of this negligence should be visited upon the delinquent districts, rather than upon the whole town, and inasmuch as the manner in which that portion of the literary fund received by any town, is to be appropriated, is left to the determination of such town, I would suggest the propriety of excluding from the benefits of that fund, if it may legally be done, those districts through whose remissness it has thus been diminished. By this course the districts will be persuaded to look to their several Prudential Committees for indemnity, and if they do so it will soon induce such committees to exercise more care and caution in paying delinquent teachers, and thus force them to a more faithful observance of their duties.

In some instances teachers have not the qualifications which are desirable, and here it may be remarked that if your Superintending Committees do sometimes approve teachers who are incompetent, or lack the capacity to teach, it is the result of circumstances which they cannot control. They *must* select teachers from the material offered. They must recommend such candidates as apply, unless the incapacity be palpable. If a better class of teachers offered, they would have better ones to recommend ; but they cannot raise to their standard those whose natural or acquired capacities fall below it. We are often reduced to the unpleasant alternative of giving a certificate against our better judgment, or injuring the feelings and reputation of the candidate by withholding it. Much then depends upon the judgment of Prudential Committees in selecting teachers. Other qualifications than those which are included in what is called "book knowledge," should be looked for by the agent of the district ; qualifications that do not come under the inspection of the Superintending Committee while they are *examining* teachers. They may be found qualified to *instruct* in the different branches pursued in our common schools, and hence they are entitled to certificates, whether in the judgment of the Committee they are capable of keeping good schools or not. Great care, then, should be taken to select persons of energy, judgment, tact and *experience*, if possible, without regard to price of wages, so that our school money be not lost, and the morals of our children impaired through the evil practice of breaking up schools by reason of incompetent teachers. And when Prudential Committees have engaged teachers, they should never allow them to commence their schools until they have complied with the law.

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. STEVENS,

*Superintendent of Schools.*

BEDFORD, March 1, 1876.

## BOOKS USED.

READING BOOKS—Monroe's, Progressive, and Hillard's.

SPELLING BOOK—Progressive Speller.

GEOGRAPHIES—Warren's and Guyot's Geographies.

ARITHMETICS—Eaton's and Robinson's Arithmetics.

GRAMMAR—Quackenbos' Grammar.

ALGEBRA—Robinson's Algebra.

PHYSIOLOGY—Cutter's Physiology.

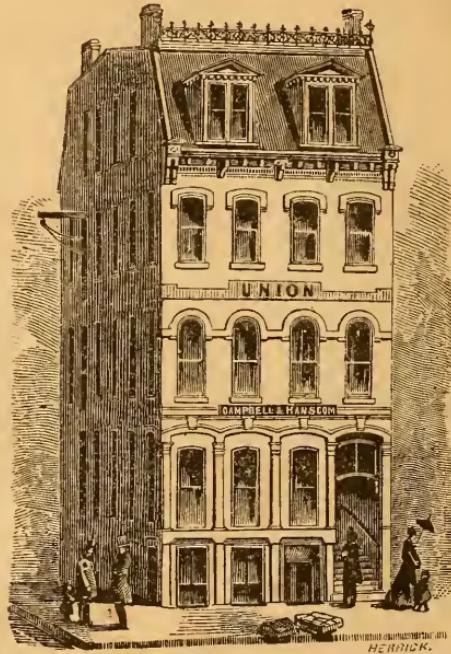
BOOK-KEEPING—Hannaford & Payson's Book-Keeping.



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